
Moscow Was Caught Between Cuba and U.S.

~~NYT~~ 11/17/87

To the Editor:

As a former Cuban deputy chief of protocol and director of Radio Havana in 1961, I can confirm Daniel Ellsberg's version of the 1962 missile crisis and Soviet acceptance of American terms as "Cuban roulette" (Op-Ed, Oct. 31). That crisis helped dispel my last qualms about leaving Cuba and defecting to the United States.

However, Mr. Ellsberg seems not to appreciate fully Fidel Castro's deep concern with Cuban sovereignty. Cubans had been fighting for complete independence from Spain since 1809. After 10 years of war (1868-78) and the failure of attempts at self-government, Cubans went to war again in 1895, only to see their efforts manipulated and thwarted by Presidents McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. While disapproving of any reckless gambling with people's lives, one must still understand Mr. Castro's courage in the face of Soviet capitulation.

ADRIAN G. MONTORO

Stony Brook, L.I., Nov. 5, 1987
